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## WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS

### UP SLIGHTLY IN 1963

Preliminary sheep numbers totaled 991 million head at the beginning of 1963, about 3.5 million head above the estimated total for 1962, but slightly below the peak of 991.5 million in 1960. The 1963 total is 6 percent above the 1956-60 average.

Although sheep are produced in almost every country, the majority are found in relatively few countries. Fifteen have 20 million or more head, accounting for nearly three-fourths of the estimated world total. Australia with 160 million head, and the USSR with 140 million, have nearly one-third of the total between them; Argentina, Republic of South Africa, India, China, and New Zealand each have more than 40 million sheep; and the United States, Brazil, Uruguay, Spain, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Iran, and Turkey have approximately 20 million or more apiece.

By geographic areas, percentage changes in sheep numbers since 1956-60 range from plus 17 in the USSR to minus 3 in North America. Numbers in Africa rose 9 percent; Oceania 8 percent; Western and Eastern Europe 5 percent; South America 1 percent.

Changes in numbers since 1962 range from minus 4 percent in Eastern Europe to plus 2 percent in the USSR and Africa. There was a 1 percent rise in Western Europe and also in Oceania. Numbers decreased by 3 percent in North America, and 1 percent in South America. There was almost no net change in total world numbers as increases offset declines.

The 5 wool exporting countries of the Southern Hemisphere showed a net increase of 1.2 million head during the year. These countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina, and Uruguay) account for about 80 percent of the wool

**SHEEP" Number in specified countries, averages 1951-55  
and 1956-60, annual 1961-63**

Continent	Averages		1961	1962	1963	Change	
	1951-55	1956-60				1963	1963
	:	:	:	:	:	1956-60	1962
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	:	:
	: head	: head	: head	: head	: head	: Percent	: Percent
North America...	38,960	39,760	41,120	39,580	38,560	-3	-3
South America...	120,700	120,820	122,730	123,260	122,620	+1	-1
Europe:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Western.....	78,570	77,810	80,870	81,600	82,040	+5	+1
Eastern.....	38,850	40,575	42,080	43,770	42,220	+4	-4
Total Europe...	117,420	118,385	122,950	125,370	124,260	+5	-1
USSR.....	92,200	119,500	133,000	137,500	139,700	+17	+2
Africa.....	127,150	134,950	140,980	144,300	147,000	+9	+2
Asia.....	183,750	209,460	213,100	210,800	210,000	---	---
Oceania.....	159,530	193,770	201,150	206,710	209,100	+8	+1
Total world...	839,710	936,645	975,030	987,520	991,250	+6	---

1/ Preliminary.

entering world trade. The bulk of the increase in these countries occurred in Australia and New Zealand, the world's leading exporters of wool, while there was a slight gain in South Africa and declines of about 1 million head in Argentina, and 0.3 million head in Uruguay.

North America.--Sheep numbers continued to drop in both the United States and Canada, offsetting gains in Mexico and Guatemala. In the United States, the inventory of stock sheep on January 1 dropped to the lowest point on record since 1867. Sheep and lambs on feed, at 4 million head, were 5 percent below the previous year.

South America.--There was a 1 percent decline in total sheep in South America. Drought, and to some extent economic uncertainty, resulted in an estimated reduction of 1 million sheep in Argentina. This followed a similar drop in the previous year. In Uruguay, unfavorable weather conditions in April-June 1962 were responsible for some severe losses in lambs and mature sheep. Partially offsetting these declines were increased numbers in Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Western Europe.--The rise in sheep numbers for Western Europe is predicated largely on increased numbers in the United Kingdom, offsetting declines in



France, Germany, and Italy. Severe winter weather following the date of these estimates of sheep numbers in the United Kingdom and other Western European countries undoubtedly caused heavy losses in some areas that are not reflected in the current estimates.

Eastern Europe.--The sharpest drop in Eastern Europe was in Yugoslavia. The short corn crop in 1961 created a national feed shortage that forced peasants to cut their livestock numbers rather sharply during the following year. There were also reported decreases in the number of sheep held on State-owned farms.

The USSR reported a further gain of 1.5 percent during the year. Numbers are 50 percent above the average of 1951-55, and 17 percent higher than the 1956-60 average. The USSR has an announced goal of 200 million sheep, an objective to be reached it is hoped, by 1970.

Africa.--In North Africa, relief from severe drought has permitted the recovery of flocks from the low point reached in 1961. In South Africa, numbers showed only a slight increase as some offsetting losses were suffered in the Republic of South Africa during a drought last year.

Oceania.--Sheep numbers in Australia are estimated to have risen about 2 million head since March 1962. Relatively unfavorable conditions in parts of Southern Australia probably limited the increase in those areas, while slaughter and export of live sheep in 1962 were considerably above the previous year. Expansion of sheep numbers continued in New Zealand at about the same rate prevailing in recent years. Feed supplies have been plentiful and wool prices favorable. Improved technology and pasture research that has included aerial fertilization of hillside pastures has increased the carrying capacity greatly in recent years. Farmers are holding an estimated 34.4 million breeding ewes, nearly 2 million above the number on hand in 1960.

(Table follows)

SHEEP: Number in specified countries, averages 1951-55 and 1956-60, annual 1961-63

Country	Averages		1961	1962 1/	1963 1/	Month of estimate
	1951-55	1956-60				
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	
<b>North America:</b>						
Canada (excluding Newfoundland).....	1,047	1,125	1,135	966	871	Dec. 1 2/
United States.....3/	31,491	31,761	32,982	31,320	30,170	Jan. 1
Guatemala.....	808	811	677	792	840	April
Mexico.....	5,040	5,398	5,700	5,900	6,100	Spring
Cuba.....	190	209	---	---	---	Dec. 2/
Total North America 4/.....	38,960	39,760	41,120	39,580	38,560	
<b>South America:</b>						
Argentina.....	47,317	47,170	49,000	48,000	47,000	June 30
Bolivia.....	---	5,566	5,650	5,700	---	Jan.
Brazil.....	16,133	19,286	18,162	19,168	19,500	Dec. 31 2/
Chile.....	6,860	7,340	7,500	7,520	7,530	Dec.
Colombia.....	1,293	1,189	1,400	1,450	1,500	Jan. 1
Ecuador.....	1,394	1,531	1,830	2,000	2,200	Aug.
Falkland Islands.....	597	610	617	---	---	
Paraguay.....	---	390	442	---	---	
Peru.....	16,587	15,147	16,009	15,937	---	Dec. 31 2/
Uruguay.....	24,533	22,373	22,000	22,300	22,000	May
Total South America 4/.....	120,700	120,820	122,730	123,260	122,620	
<b>Europe:</b>						
Austria.....	318	214	175	169	153	Dec. 3 2/
Belgium and Luxembourg.....	117	102	61	66	63	Jan.
Denmark 5/.....	36	37	46	53	---	July
Finland.....	976	431	307	279	---	June
France.....	7,725	8,565	9,043	9,111	8,963	Oct. 2/
Germany, West 6/.....	1,495	1,098	1,032	1,111	974	Dec. 3 2/
Greece.....	7,843	9,213	9,353	9,450	9,500	Dec. 31 2/
Iceland.....	487	741	834	---	---	Dec. 2/
Ireland.....	2,118	2,847	3,106	3,376	3,383	Jan.
Italy.....	9,706	8,495	8,230	8,200	8,100	Jan. 1
Netherlands.....7/	405	490	263	284	267	Dec. 2/
Norway.....	1,056	958	966	979	960	Dec. 31 2/
Portugal 8/.....9/	5,200	4,554	4,225	---	---	Jan.
Spain.....7/	24,115	20,913	22,622	22,665	22,670	Dec. 31 2/
Sweden.....	208	148	171	182	---	June
Switzerland.....	188	210	227	230	230	April
United Kingdom.....	16,428	18,621	20,031	20,217	21,030	Dec. 2/
Total West Europe 4/.....	78,570	77,810	80,870	81,600	82,040	
<b>Albania.....</b>						
Albania.....	1,601	1,629	---	---	---	
Bulgaria.....	7,763	8,111	9,333	10,161	---	Jan.
Czechoslovakia.....	882	858	646	603	---	Jan. 1
Germany, East.....	1,403	1,989	2,015	1,930	1,875	Dec. 3 2/
Hungary.....	1,597	2,078	2,643	2,850	2,700	March
Poland.....	3,442	3,917	3,494	3,251	3,200	June 30
Rumania.....	10,903	10,929	11,500	12,285	12,350	Jan.
Yugoslavia.....	11,259	11,062	10,842	11,078	9,777	Jan. 15
Total East Europe.....	38,850	40,575	42,080	43,770	42,220	
Total Europe 4/.....	117,420	118,385	122,950	125,370	124,260	
USSR (Europe and Asia) 11/.....	92,200	119,500	133,000	137,500	139,700	Jan. 1

(Continued)

## SHEEP: Number in specified countries, averages 1951-55 and 1956-60, annual 1961-63 (continued)

Country	Averages		1961	1962 1/	1963 1/	Month of estimate
	1951-55	1956-60				
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	
<b>Africa:</b>						
Algeria 12/.....	5,583	6,115	---	---	---	Nov. 20 2/
Ethiopia.....	19,725	20,760	22,000	---	---	---
Libya.....	1,280	1,261	1,261	1,194	---	---
Morocco.....	10,062	10,454	9,260	11,184	13,140	---
Sudan, Republic of the.....	5,840	6,754	7,150	---	---	Dec. 2/
Tunisia.....	3,013	3,233	4,006	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
Egypt.....	1,381	1,318	1,587	1,596	1,612	Jan. 1
Basutoland.....	1,418	1,280	---	---	---	---
Burundi and Rwanda 13/.....	404	520	---	---	---	---
Cameroon.....	600	522	---	---	---	Dec. 2/
Congo, (Leopoldville) 14/...	529	10/ 667	---	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
Guinea.....	254	10/ 335	362	380	---	---
Ivory Coast.....	288	10/ 365	372	395	---	---
Kenya.....	7,240	7,453	7,583	---	---	---
Malagasy Republic.....	342	10/ 270	---	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
Mali.....	3,630	10/ 4,300	5,400	5,940	---	---
Mauritania.....	1,476	10/ 1,950	2,050	2,110	---	---
Niger.....	1,815	10/ 2,100	2,000	2,000	---	---
Nigeria.....	8,000	10/ 7,500	10,000	---	---	---
Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Federation of.....	378	370	424	482	515	Dec. 31 2/
Senegal.....	350	10/ 650	786	825	---	---
South Africa, Republic of...	36,100	38,400	---	---	---	Aug. 31
Southwest Africa.....	3,280	3,127	---	---	---	---
Tanganyika.....	2,678	2,852	2,871	---	---	Dec. 2/
Togo.....	268	10/ 345	---	---	---	---
Uganda 15/.....	1,093	1,093	865	---	---	---
Upper Volta.....	1,108	10/ 1,150	1,325	1,349	---	---
Total Africa 4/.....	127,150	134,950	140,980	144,300	147,000	---
<b>Asia:</b>						
Cyprus.....	329	395	434	---	---	Dec. 2/
Iran.....	17,124	23,640	22,000	22,436	22,439	March 21
Iraq 15/ 16/.....	9,800	10/ 9,040	---	---	---	March 21
Jordan.....	349	470	431	404	418	Dec. 2/
Saudi Arabia.....	3,600	10/ 3,800	---	---	---	Nov. 2/
Turkey (Europe and Asia)...	25,709	29,613	34,463	33,307	31,000	Dec. 31 2/
Syria.....	3,455	5,032	3,649	3,503	---	Dec. 31 2/
Yemen.....	3,750	10/ 3,970	---	---	---	---
China, Mainland 17/.....	41,952	---	---	---	---	Dec. 1 2/
India.....	39,469	39,500	40,263	---	---	---
Japan.....	647	881	677	504	430	Feb. 1
Pakistan.....	6,716	6,805	6,600	---	---	---
Total Asia 4/.....	183,750	209,460	213,100	210,800	210,000	---
<b>Oceania:</b>						
Australia.....	122,822	149,220	152,678	157,714	159,500	Mar. 31
New Zealand.....	36,698	44,535	48,462	48,981	49,600	June 30
Total Oceania 4/.....	159,530	193,770	201,150	206,710	209,110	---
Total World 4/.....	839,710	936,645	975,030	987,520	991,250	---

1/ Preliminary. 2/ October-December numbers are included under the following year for comparison and totals. 3/ Averages do not include Alaska and Hawaii. Estimates for Alaska and Hawaii are included in the United States totals beginning with 1961. 4/ Includes allowance for any missing data for countries shown and for countries not shown. 5/ Excludes Faroe Islands. 6/ Includes Saarland. 7/ May census. 8/ Includes Azores and Maderia Islands. 9/ December census. 10/ Less than a 5-year average. 11/ Some years are estimates based on sheep and goats. 12/ Taxed only. 13/ Formerly Ruanda-Urundi. 14/ Formerly Belgian Congo. 15/ On native farms. 16/ Includes goats. 17/ Includes 22 provinces, Manchuria, Sinkiang and Tibet. Excludes Outer Mongolia.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States agricultural attaches and other representatives abroad, results of office research and related information.

May 14, 1963.

